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EI #17

March 14, 2003

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Northeast Regional Office
300 Westgate Center Drive
Hadley, MA 01035-9589

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RE: New York Central Lines, LLC and CSX Transportation, Inc.
Proposed Abandonment Proposed Discontinuance of Service
Docket No. AB-565 (Sub. No. 14X) Docket No. AB-55 (Sub No. 629X)

Dear Gentlemen:

Please be advised that on February 28, 2003, New York Central Lines, LLC (NYC) and CSX Transportation, Inc. (CSXT) filed with the Surface Transportation Board ("Board") a Notice of Exemption seeking authority to abandon and discontinue service, respectively, over approximately 6.3 miles of railroad from South Amsterdam, Montgomery County to Rotterdam Junction, Schenectady County, New York.

Attached is a preliminary Environmental Report describing the proposed action and any expected environmental effects. We are providing this report so that you may review the information that will form the basis for the Board's independent environmental analysis of this proceeding. Your comments will be considered by the Board in evaluating the environmental impacts of the contemplated action. If any of the information is incorrect, if you believe that pertinent information is missing, or if you have any questions about the Board's environmental review process, please contact the Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA), Surface Transportation Board, Washington, DC 20423, telephone (202) 565-1545 and refer to the above Docket Numbers. Because the applicable statutes and regulations impose stringent deadlines for processing this action, your immediate comments to SEA (with copy to me) would be greatly appreciated.

As further information, this line segment has already been evaluated by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation - Division of Fish, Wildlife & Marine Resources. There findings are included in the enclosed preliminary environmental report.

If there are any questions concerning this proposal, please contact me directly by telephone at (904) 359-1086, or by mail at the above address.

Sincerely,

Attachment
Copy:
Surface Transportation Board
Section of Environmental Analysis
1925 "K" Street NW - Suite 534
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Ms. N. S. Rosenberg, Counsel, CSXT, 500 Water Street-J150, Jacksonville, FL 32202